In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 11-13, 15, 17-19, 21, 25-27, 45, 49 and 50; cancel Claims 29-44 and 52-59; and add new Claims 60-67, all as shown below. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for modifying mail filters associated with a user of a mail system, the method comprising:

    receiving a subscription request by a sender, the subscription request including user information;

    generating a petition by the sender based on ~~from~~ the user information, the petition comprising a request for ~~a~~ the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user; ~~and~~

    transmitting a token ~~storing~~ containing the petition ~~to the user~~ from the sender to a recipient as a result of the subscription request and storing said token at the recipient;

    receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;

    checking for the token containing the petition in the recipient; and

    processing said token containing the petition if the token is found in the recipient and modifying the mail filters associated with the user by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition.

2. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the token is a cookie.

3. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~user information comprises~~ petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify that an email message is from a given sender.

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3, wherein the identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 3, wherein the identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes a digital signature.

6. (Original)   The method of claim 1, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

7. (Currently Amended)   A method for modifying mail filters associated with a user of a mail system, the method comprising:

receiving a subscription   request to a sender, the subscription request including user information;

generating a petition by the sender based on ~~from~~ the user information, the petition comprising a request for ~~a~~ the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user; ~~and~~

transmitting ~~to the user~~ from the sender to a recipient a token storing a reference to a location of the petition as a result of the subscription request and storing the token at the recipient;

receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;

searching in the recipient for the token containing the reference to a location of the petition; and

retrieving the petition from said location if the token is found on the recipient and processing said petition by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition.

8. (Original)   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

receiving a request for the petition from a party maintaining the list of approved mail senders; and

transmitting the petition in response to the request for the petition.

9. (Original)   The method of claim 7, further comprising:

including authentication credentials in the token; and

receiving authentication credentials with the request for the petition.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the token is a cookie.

11. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 7, wherein the ~~user information comprises~~ petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify that an email message is from a given sender.

12. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein the identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

13. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 11, wherein the identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes a digital signature.

14. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

15. (Currently Amended)   A computer program product, stored on a computer readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to modify mail filters, the instructions comprising:

receiving a subscription request by a sender, the subscription request including user
information;

generating a petition by the sender based on ~~from~~ the user information, the petition
comprising a request for ~~a~~ the sender to be added to a list of approved mail
senders, the list associated with the user; ~~and~~

transmitting a token ~~storing~~ containing the petition ~~to the user~~ from the sender to a
recipient as a result of the subscription request and storing said token at the
recipient;

receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;

checking for the token containing the petition in the recipient; and

processing said token containing the petition if the token is found in the recipient and
modifying the mail filters associated with the user by adding the sender to the list
of approved mail senders as specified in the petition.

16. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the token is a cookie.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the
~~user information comprises~~ petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify
that an email message is from a given sender.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the
identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 17, wherein the
identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes a digital signature.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 15, wherein the user information
comprises a user identifier.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, stored on a computer
readable medium, and including computer executable instructions for controlling a processor to
modify mail filters, the instructions comprising:

receiving a subscription request to a sender, the subscription request including user
information;

generating a petition by the sender based on ~~from~~ the user information, the petition
comprising a request for ~~a~~ the sender to be added to a list of approved mail
senders, the list associated with the user; ~~and~~

transmitting ~~to the user~~ from the sender to a recipient a token storing a reference to a
location of the petition as a result of the subscription request and storing the token
at the recipient;

receiving a login request from the user to the mail system;

searching in the recipient for the token containing the reference to a location of the petition; and

retrieving the petition from said location if the token is found on the recipient and processing said petition by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition.

22. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the instructions further comprise:

receiving a request for the petition from a party maintaining the list of approved mail senders; and

transmitting the petition in response to the request for the petition.

23. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the instructions further comprise:

including authentication credentials in the token; and

receiving authentication credentials with the request for the petition.

24. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the token is a cookie.

25. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the ~~user information comprises~~ petition specifies an identification method that will be used to verify that an email message is from a given sender.

26. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes an origin electronic mail address for the sender.

27. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 25, wherein the identification method ~~includes~~ utilizes a digital signature.

28. (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

29 – 44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently Amended)   A system for modifying mail filters, the system comprising:
a server configured to:
receive a subscription request to a sender, the subscription request including user information; and
transmit a token containing a petition from the sender to a ~~user~~ recipient system as a result of the subscription request, the token configured to enable processing of ~~a~~ the petition comprising a request for ~~a~~ the sender to be added to a list of approved mail senders, the list associated with the user wherein the token containing the petition is stored at the recipient system; ~~and~~
a petition generator configured to generate the petition from the user information; and
a petition processor configured to process the petition contained in the token if the token is found on the recipient system by adding the sender to the list of approved mail senders as specified in the petition.

46. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the token contains the petition.

47. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the token contains a reference to a location of the petition.

48. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the petition includes an identification method.

49. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 45, wherein the identification method ~~is~~ utilizes a sender mail address.

50. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 45, wherein the identification method ~~is~~ utilizes a digital signature.

51. (Original) The system of claim 45, wherein the user information comprises a user identifier.

52 – 59 (Canceled).

60. (New)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
requesting a confirmation of the success of the petition by the sender; and
transmitting a confirmation of the petition from the recipient to the sender indicating success or denial of the petition.

61. (New)   The method of claim 60, wherein the sender assumes that the petition was denied by the recipient if confirmation was requested by the sender but never received from the recipient.

62. (New)   The method of claim 1, wherein the token containing the petition is transmitted from the sender to the recipient via hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

63. (New)   The method of claim 1, further comprising:
maintaining a petition rules list that specify special handling of the petition based on the data contained in the petition such that the petition rule list identifies recipients whose petition processors are located on the systems of a remote mail provider.

64. (New)   The method of claim 7, further comprising:
requesting a confirmation of the success of the petition by the sender; and
transmitting a confirmation of the petition from the recipient to the sender indicating success or denial of the petition.

65. (New)   The method of claim 64, wherein the sender assumes that the petition was denied by the recipient if confirmation was requested by the sender but never received from the recipient.

66. (New)   The method of claim 7, wherein the token containing the reference to the location of the petition is transmitted from the sender to the recipient via hypertext transfer protocol (HTTP).

67. (New)   The method of claim 7, further comprising:
maintaining a petition rules list that specify special handling of the petition based on the data contained in the petition such that the petition rule list identifies recipients whose petition processors are located on the systems of a remote mail provider.